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Appointment of a Revision Officer in the Cuddalore Municipality.

* 252 Q.—Sri M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a Revision Officer was appointed in the Cuddalore Municipality for revision of property taxes;

(*b*) if so, the number of cases in which the property taxes were reduced and the number of cases in which the property taxes were raised;

(*c*) the total increase of revenue anticipated by the revision; and

(*d*) the expenditure incurred in connexion with the appointment of Revision Officer and his staff?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) Property tax assessments were raised in 13,787 cases and reduced in 19 cases.

" (*c*) The increase of revenue as a result of enhancement of assessments by the Revision Officer was Rs. 1,93,120. This has been reduced by Rs. 91,540 in the disposal of revision petitions against the enhanced assessment. Further appeals are pending before the Council. Final figures of the increase in revenue will be known only after the Council disposes of all appeals before it.

" (*d*) Rs. 3,495."

Sri M. ETHIRAJULU :— " சர்க்கார் உத்திரவினால்தான் வரி உயர்ந்திருப்பதாக அங்குள்ள பொது ஜனங்கள் கருதுகிறார்கள். அப்படி சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது வரி உயர்வதற்கு உத்திரவு போட்டிருக்கிறார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—"வரி உயர்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் உத்திரவு எதுவும் அனுப்பவில்லை. ஐந்து வருஷத்திற்கு முன்பு இந்த நகரசபை வரி விதிப்பை மீண்டும் பரிசீலனை செய்ய ஒரு ஆபீசர் வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டார்களே தவிர வரி உயர்வதற்கு என்று புதிதாக ஒன்றும் உத்திரவு போடவில்லை."

Sri M. ETHIRAJULU :—"அதிகப்படி உயர்த்திய வரியைக் குறைக்க முப்பது நாளைக்குள் அப்பீல் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று முனிசிபல் சட்டத்தில் விதியிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அப்படி முப்பது நாளைக்குள் மனு, செய்யாதவர்கள் பலபேர்கள் இருப்பதை சர்க்கார் அறிந்து அதற்குப் பிறகும் மீண்டும் ஒரு காலவரை ஏற்படுத்தி அப்பீலை கவனிக்க வேண்டுமென்று உத்திரவு பிறப்பித்திருப்பதாகக் கேள்விப்பட்டேன். அம்மாதிரி ஒரு காலவரை ஏற்படுத்தி, பரிசீலனை செய்து குறைக்கப்பட்ட வரியையே இப்போது வசூலிக்காமல், முன்பு அதிகமாக உயர்த்திய வரியை வசூல்செய்து வருகிறார்கள். ஆகவே அவர்கள் அப்படி உயர்த்திய வரியை வசூல் செய்யவேண்டாமென்று அரசாங்கம் ஏதாவது தடை உத்திரவு போடுமா ? "

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" குறிப்பாக என்ன செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்கள் கூறினால், கவனிக்கப்படும்."

Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Sir, many of the municipalities are enhancing the property tax up to the maximum prescribed in the rules, viz., 27 per cent of the annual rental

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value. Will the Government kindly issue instructions to all municipalities to see that they do not enhance the tax at each quinquennial revision if they are not able to provide additional amenities to the people?"

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" Sir, property assessments are made according to the rules prescribed for the purpose."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—DELAY IN PLACING PAPER ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your leave, I beg to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Transport to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the intolerable situation that has arisen in the working of the Central Road Traffic Board. Sir, it is greatly to be regretted that an amendment which was issued in G.O. No. 4263, Home, dated the 7th November 1951, was placed on the table of the House on 17th March 1955 with reference to sub-section (3) of section 133 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Act (Central Act IV of 1939). This section requiries that all rules framed under the Act should be placed before both Houses of Legislature as soon as possible after they are made. I am afraid it is a breach of privilege of this House that the Government Order is placed on the table of this House after a lapse of nearly four years. I do not know whether the Government Order has been placed on the table of the other House. The amendment provides that if within fifteen minutes after the time scheduled for the commencement of a meeting of the Central Road Traffic Board, no member turns up, the Chairman may proceed to conduct the meeting without the prescribed quirum. I may point out that quite a lot of dissatisfaction is being felt by the Chairmen of the several transport authorities as also by the concerned operators at the way in which the Central Road Traffic Board is proceeding with its meeting without a quorum. Invariably at least in a majority of cases, when the other members do not attend the meeting—this is so because there are no non-official members and all members are officials—the Chairman is functioning as a one-man Board. That is not fair. I wish to point out that the delay in placing the Government Order on the table of the House has resulted this sort of thing to go on unclcked. I, therefore, call the attention of the Government to this matter for the immediate redress of this intolerable situation in the working of the Central Road Traffic Board." 3–20 p.m.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I am sorry that the hon. Member strayed away from the subject proper. Strictly speaking, he should have stopped with the reference to the delay in placing the Government Order on the table of the House. I do not know why he took the trouble of bringing to the notice of the Government that the Chairman of the Central Road Traffic